

OUT OF DOORS FOR WOMEN.

VOLUME III.

DECEMBER, 1895.

NUMBER 25.

STRAWBERRIES.

The strawberry we consider the most profitable fruit that can be grown, provided the right varieties for the locality are chosen. There are thousands of small towns and villages throughout the United States where the local market is not one-half supplied. This is a great opening for thousands of persons to embark in a very profitable business. Also, the city markets are always demanding large first-class fruit, especially in the berry line. In marketing, always use nice, clean boxes, and always give big measure; never market poor, inferior fruit; all such should be thrown away. But if you grow good, desirable varieties, you will have little interior fruit to throw out. Strawberries can be successfully grown in any soil where a crop of corn or potatoes can be produced. When preparing land for strawberries, plow deep, but before plowing give the ground a good covering of stable manure, which is the very best fertilizer known for berries; afterwards, harrow up very fine. Rows for field culture may be laid out 5 feet apart, and the plants set in rows 1 foot apart; for garden culture, rows can be 3 feet apart, and plants set 1 foot apart in the rows.

Many varieties of strawberries are destitute of stamens. These are termed pistillate sorts, or imperfect flowering kinds. They are generally marvelous yielders, when properly fertilized. What we mean by this, is that they should be set close to a row of a staminate sort, or perfect flowering kind. All varieties marked (P) are pistillate, all marked (S) are staminate. Strawberry plants can be safely set from September 1st until May 1st—of course, in cold localities, late spring planting is preferable.

GREENVILLE (P.) This ought to be termed a queen among strawberries, for it succeeds everywhere. It is large in size, a brilliant red, a great yielder, and possesses a very spicy, aromatic flavor; ripens in mid-season.

LADY RUSK (P.) Splendid for a hot climate; very early, an abundant yielder, berries large, sweet and fine; good shippers.

MIDDLEFIELD (S.) A fancy berry for a fancy market.

JACUNDA IMPROVED (S.) Very similar to the Van Dieman, but with us ripens about three days earlier; the largest extreme early berry we ever fruited; we shall plant largely of this and the Van Dieman.

TIMBRELL (P.) A strange type of berry, of a mottled orange and red color, but of a sweet and charming flavor; it ripens after Gandy, is of enormous size and is very productive; it will be widely cultivated in the West on account of its flatness.

SWINDLE (S.) This is, indeed, a swindle with us, as it is a very poor and inferior type of berry; we hear good reports from the East, however, regarding it.

GANDY (S.) We cannot begin to give this too much praise—the plant is faultless; a large, vigorous, healthy grower just productive enough to perfect its whole load of fruit; the berries are of a deep, glistening red; the flavor strongly suggestive of strawberries and peaches; in size it ranks with

the largest, and we believe this sort will perfect more large berries than any other sort known at the present day. This is a most superb canning variety. We are going to plant it largely, as we know all the plants will be called for.

FINCH'S PROLIFIC (S.) Something very fine; the fruit averages quite large and ripens with the Wilson; it is a very firm and finely flavored variety, and is very beautifully colored.

EARLY SCARLET (S.) One of the very earliest varieties.

E. P. ROE (S.) We do not believe this will ever amount to much in this country.

CRESCENT SEEDLING (P.) Noted for its wonderful productiveness, and its bright colored berries; succeeds on all soils and in all climates.

DOWNER'S PROLIFIC (S.) A good yielder of large, round, light colored berries. Per dozen, 25 cents; 75 cents per 100.

CUMBERLAND TRIOMPHE (S.) "A magnificent variety; berries large, no small ones, fine, perfect form and of fine flavor; beautiful bright scarlet color; of excellent quality and is growing in general favor; no one ever regrets planting it; does well everywhere; the plant is remarkably strong and luxuriant, stands extremes of heat and cold, and is not injured by drouth as many other varieties; produces abundantly, ripens medium to late, and one of the few berries that do equally well on all soils."

CRYSTAL CITY (S.) Valuable only for its extreme earliness.

LENNING'S WHITE (S.) A very rare and scarce creamy white variety, suitable only for the amateur; berries medium in size, but of the most exquisite flavor and highly perfumed musky aroma; color white, tinted with red when exposed to the sun, and very showy on the table in contrast with dark or scarlet sorts; ripe in mid-season; plants vigorous, healthy growth; though a shy bearer, is in great demand wherever its delicious table qualities are known; a great addition to garden novelties, and should be in the hands of every thorough gardener.

ENHANCE (S.) Cross between Sharpless and Windsor Chief; a vigorous and healthy grower, with dark green foliage; develops massive crowns of perfect flowers; one of the most prolific in pollen; no perfect flowering variety has been produced combining more points of merit than this; is a general purpose berry; the berries largest size, very firm, bright crimson, attractive and salable; its size, beauty and firmness will recommend it to public favor, and command a high price in a fancy market.

GREAT ONTARIO (S.) An old variety, but very fine; of the Sharpless type.

GLENDAL (S.) A very old sort; quite acid; a splendid canning variety.

GENERAL PUTNAM (P.) Very similar to Cumberland Triomphe.

MINOR'S PROLIFIC (S.) Similar to the Charles Downing, but a larger and better colored berry.

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